



U.S. Department of Justice

United States Attorney
 Southern District of New York

The Silvio J. Mollo Building
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September 17, 2021

BY ECF

The Honorable P. Kevin Castel
 United States District Judge
 Southern District of New York
 Daniel Patrick Moynihan U.S. Courthouse
 500 Pearl Street
 New York, New York 10007

Re: *United States v. Virgil Griffith, 20 Cr. 15 (PKC)*

Dear Judge Castel:

The Government respectfully submits this letter in opposition to the defendant's objection to the admission of evidence at trial that includes references to the DPRK's nuclear weapons. In light of the Court's rulings at the pretrial conference held on September 14, 2021 (the "Pretrial Conference"), the defendant's objection implicates three exhibits that the Government intends to offer in its case-in-chief, which contain the defendant's statements.¹ For the reasons set forth below, these Exhibits are relevant to the services and evasion objects of the charged conspiracy as well as the defendant's intent, and the Exhibits are not unduly prejudicial—and should not be redacted—in light of their probative value and the fact that the Court has already struck a careful balance under Rule 403 by excluding expert testimony and another Government Exhibit relating to this issue.

I. Relevant Facts

A. The Relevant Exhibits

At trial, the Government seeks to offer the following Exhibits, which contain statements of the defendant referring to the DPRK's nuclear weapons program and related weapons. (*See* Dkt. 131, Gov't MIL at 7; Dkt. 146, Gov't Opp. to Def. MIL at 6-10). Each Exhibit is attached to this letter.

- Government Exhibit 1006, attached hereto as Exhibit B, is an electronic message conversation beginning on August 31, 2018, in which Griffith stated the following:

¹ The Government does not intend to offer in its case-in-chief the defendant's September 6, 2018 statement, falsely claiming that he "will not be pursuing a node in the dprk," citing "the concern" that the U.S. President "would receive a memo that says Ethereum is funding dprk's nukes" and "act[] rashly." (Sept. 14, 2021 Conf. (hereinafter "Tr.") 25-26, attached as Exhibit A.)

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- Griffith: I think this con[ference] is about as safe as a trip to dprk is going to get for the next 4-5 years.
- Griffith: It's a business event, it's just after the summit, and it's a fancy con. And DPRK wouldn't want to scare away Blockchain talent that'll let them get around sanctions
- Individual-3: What if they're funding their drug trade and nuclear program with crypto?
- Griffith: Unlikely. But they'd probably like to start doing such.

- Government Exhibit 415, attached hereto as Exhibit C, is an excerpt of a transcript for an audio recording of Griffith's presentation at the Conference in North Korea in which Griffith discussed, among other things, proposals for the DPRK to (1) link its position on sanctions to the threat of a nuclear weapon through blockchain technology, and (2) do the same with respect to artillery in the Korean Peninsula's Demilitarized Zone ("DMZ"):

Before you couldn't hold a country accountable like this behaves. Like if it's a big country. Like there's nothing you could do. Now there is. So just an idea, so hypothetically you could have something where you could have a module on a missile, and the module could say something like you know if all the news reports say that sanctions on North Korea have been lifted, the missile will deactivate. But only then. And so this will give the U.S., I guess, confidence that Korea really will follow through to say that no no if you get rid of the sanction, the missile really are gone, like really. And so this is fundamentally a new way where they are automatic agreements you can't take back.

....
[S]ay things like you know, we want there to be less artillery in the DMZ, and say you know if there is less artillery then that we agree to, I don't know, say one of the missiles, exactly one being deactivated, or something like that and this is the way to start small, otherwise we get comfortable with technology.

- Government Exhibit 808, attached hereto as Exhibit D, is Griffith's notes for his "Blockchain and Peace" presentation describing "generic uses for DPRK" of blockchain technology, including "using smart-property to disable nukes based on upon fu[l]filled conditions."

B. The Pretrial Conference

At the Pretrial Conference, the Court ruled that expert testimony regarding "Korean nuclear capabilities" was not relevant. (Tr. 19). The Court also excluded pursuant to Rule 403 a December

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30, 2017 email from CC-3 to the defendant that included an article referencing “Pyongyang’s sixth nuclear test.” (Tr. 27; Dkt. 146, Govt. Opp. To Def. MIL at 7).

The Court also ruled, however, that evidence regarding the DPRK’s nuclear program was admissible “to a limited extent” where it involved the defendant’s communications, and specifically referenced the communications between Griffith and Individual-3 now marked as Government Exhibit C for the purposes of this motion. (Tr. 25). The defense raised a categorical objection to any references in the trial evidence to the DPRK nuclear program. (Tr. 28). In response, the Court noted that it was “significant that this [evidence] is coming out of the defendant’s mouth,” and asked the Government to file a response addressing the defense objection and whether the objected-to terms could be redacted in favor of the phrase “illicit programs.” (Tr. 28).

II. Discussion

Each of these Exhibits is admissible at trial in its entirety. (*See* Dkt. 131, Gov’t MIL at 7; Dkt. 146, Gov’t Opp. to Def. MIL at 6-10 (detailing the relevance of this evidence)). The significant probative value of the evidence is not substantially outweighed by a risk of unfair prejudice. The Court already struck a careful balance under Rule 403 by excluding other proffered expert testimony and evidence relating to the DPRK’s nuclear program, and the redactions discussed at the Pretrial Conference would unduly restrict the Government’s ability to use the defendant’s own words as proof that he willfully violated the IEEPA in connection with a conspiracy to provide services to the DPRK and to evade applicable sanctions.

Government Exhibits 415 and 808 show that Griffith engaged directly with the DPRK’s use of nuclear weapons, including missiles in particular, at the Conference as part of the tailored services he provided and pitched to the DPRK audience. Specifically, recordings of the Conference that the Government plans to offer at trial reflect that Griffith proposed the creation of a kind of “smart contract” where the DPRK “could have a module on a missile, and the module could say something like you know if all the news reports say that sanctions on North Korea have been lifted, the missile will deactivate. But only then.” (*See* Dkt. 146 at 7-9). Griffith’s notes for his “Blockchain and Peace” presentation reflect the same proposal, describing “generic uses for DPRK” of blockchain technology, including “using smart-property to disable nukes based on upon fu[l]filled conditions.” (*Id.* at 8). In other words, Griffith specifically pitched the DPRK audience on the “idea” that they could gain leverage in sanctions negotiations by placing a “module on a missile” to “deactivate” the missile, referring specifically from his notes to DPRK “nukes,” but only “if you [i.e., the United States] get rid of the sanction, the missile are really gone.” Through these notes and recordings, Griffith embraced the potential for his services to be used in coordination with the DPRK’s nuclear weapons program.

This evidence is probative in light of the Government’s burden to prove that the defendant conspired to provide “services,” as that term will be defined in the Court’s instructions to the jury. The defendant’s presentation to North Koreans about their ability to utilize blockchain technology to create a disarmament protocol, potentially allowing them to gain leverage in nuclear negotiations with the United States, is strong proof that the defendant’s presentation was tailored to the DPRK audience. As discussed at the September 14, 2021 conference, the defendant has

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indicated that he intends to argue that his conduct at the Conference did not constitute a “service,” but rather “information.” (*See, e.g.*, Tr. 12-13.) Particularly in light of that defense argument, the Government should be permitted to offer proof that Griffith presented on topics distinctly relevant inside North Korea, such as his proposal for the DPRK to link blockchain technology to its nuclear weapons arsenal in order to gain power over the United States in its sanctions negotiations.

The Government opposes the redaction or substitution of references to the terms “missile” and “nukes,” because doing so would undermine the lengths that the defendant went to create a tailored presentation, not previously in existence, that appealed to the DPRK audience. The very basis for the redaction or substitution—to make these items more generic or less nefarious—would undermine the Government’s proof by obscuring the specificity of the defendant’s presentation. Rule 403 does not provide a basis to require redaction of this probative evidence of the defendant’s conduct inside North Korea, captured in the defendant’s own words. *See United States v. Brown*, No. S2 16 Cr. 559 (DLC), 2017 WL 2493140, at *1-2 (S.D.N.Y. June 9, 2017) (*quoting Old Chief v. United States*, 519 U.S. 172, 180 (1997)); *see also United States v. Quattrone*, 441 F.3d 153, 186 (2d Cir. 2006) (“All evidence introduced against a defendant, if material to an issue in the case, tends to prove guilt, but is not necessarily prejudicial in any sense that matters to the rules of evidence.” (citation omitted)). Moreover, it would be impracticable to redact and replace the audio of the defendant’s references to nuclear “missile[s]” at the Conference in Government Exhibit 415.

Government Exhibit 1006 shows that Griffith understood his services could be used to facilitate extremely dangerous activities such as drug trafficking and the development of nuclear weapons, and he made that comment in the context of an exchange in which Griffith described himself as part of a class of “Blockchain talent” that the DPRK considered capable of helping to “get around sanctions.” Griffith’s adoptive response to Individual-3 predicted that the DPRK would “probably like to start doing such,” and therefore supports the Government’s argument that Griffith understood that he was recruited to attend the Conference to provide a service to the attendees. Finally, this exchange occurred just days after the defendant contacted CC-1 and CC-2 to pursue travel to the DPRK for the Conference, and is therefore probative of his willful intent in connection with his preparations for travel to North Korea and his presentation at the Conference. (*See* Dkt. 131, Gov’t MIL at 6-7).

The Government also opposes the redaction of the terms “drug trade” and “nuclear” in Government Exhibit 1006, or the substitution of a term like “illicit programs,” because the proposed redaction or substitution to the defendant’s adopted statement would serve to improperly dilute the Government’s evidence. Rule 403 does not require any such alteration to the defendant’s own statements and a substitute term, such as “illicit programs,” can be used to refer to a wide range of conduct, such as certain types of frauds. The redaction proposed at the Pretrial Conference does not convey the magnitude of what the defendant discussed prior to the Conference and would therefore improperly restrict the force of the Government’s evidence. The Government should also be permitted to argue from his conversation with Individual-3 that the defendant intentionally broached the topic of the DPRK’s nuclear weapons at the Conference, thereby tailoring his presentation, because he understood that the DPRK audience, in particular, would be interested in that topic.

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In sum, the defendant's references to nuclear weapons, other weapons, and drug trafficking prior to and during the Conference are powerful evidence that he provided a service to the DPRK in the form of a tailored presentation designed to address issues of concern to the participants at the Conference, that another one of the defendant's objectives in doing so was to facilitate sanctions evasion, and that during all of this conduct the defendant acted willfully, *i.e.*, "knowingly and purposefully with intent to do something the law forbids." *United States v. Khalupsky*, 5 F.4th 279, 297 (2d Cir. 2021) (internal quotation marks omitted). As the Court already suggested at the Pretrial Conference, this evidence of the defendant's own words, which bears on issues that the defendant will contest at trial, is not "unfairly" prejudicial under Rule 403. *United States v. Brown*, No. S2 16 Cr. 559 (DLC), 2017 WL 2493140, at *1-2 (S.D.N.Y. June 9, 2017) (quoting *Old Chief v. United States*, 519 U.S. 172, 180 (1997)).

Accordingly, for all of these reasons, the Court should deny the defendant's motion to redact the statements in the Exhibits discussed above, which are admissible at trial.

Respectfully submitted,

AUDREY STRAUSS
United States Attorney

By: /s/
Kimberly J. Ravener
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Exhibit A

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1 UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
2 SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK
3 -----x

4 UNITED STATES OF AMERICA,

5 v.

20 CR 15 (PKC)

6 VIRGIL GRIFFITH,

7 Defendant.
8 -----x

9 New York, N.Y.
10 September 14, 2021
11 4:40 p.m.

12 Before:

13 HON. P. KEVIN CASTEL,

14 District Judge

15 APPEARANCES

16 AUDREY STRAUSS,
17 United States Attorney for the
18 Southern District of New York
19 KIMBERLY RAVENER
20 KYLE ADAM WIRSHBA
21 Assistant United States Attorneys

22 BRIAN EDWARD KLEIN
23 SEAN STEPHEN BUCKLEY
24 KERI CURTIS AXEL
25 Attorneys for Defendant

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1 (Case called)

2 MS. RAVENER: Good afternoon, your Honor. Kimberly
3 Ravener and Kyle Wirshba, for the government.

4 THE COURT: Good afternoon to you both.

5 And for the defendant?

6 MR. KLEIN: Good afternoon, your Honor. Brian Klein,
7 with Keri Axel and Sean Buckley, and sitting next to me is the
8 defendant, Virgil Griffith. He's in custody.

9 THE COURT: Good afternoon to you all. Thank you for
10 accommodating me. I am trying a case in Courtroom 23B of this
11 courthouse, and we broke early with the jury, and I appreciate
12 your accommodating my schedule.

13 So let's talk about motions in limine.

14 I have received and reviewed the motions, the
15 responses to the motions, and I assume the parties have said
16 what they wanted to say in their motion papers.

17 Is that correct, for the government?

18 MS. RAVENER: It is, your Honor.

19 THE COURT: For the defendant?

20 MR. KLEIN: Yes, your Honor. We may want to add a
21 little bit on --

22 THE COURT: Sure. No, go right ahead.

23 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, because there have been other
24 filings since the time of that filing, in particular, the
25 government has filed things related to its expert and raised

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1 different issues, and I think one of the motions they filed was
2 to exclude the defense from introducing into evidence our
3 argument what they term extraneous evidence regarding the DPRK.

4 THE COURT: All right. Well, we'll get to that, and
5 when we get to that, you'll let me know what you want to raise.

6 But, first, let's start with the argument on
7 statements. Is there anything you wanted to add on that,
8 Mr. Klein?

9 MR. KLEIN: In terms of our opposition?

10 THE COURT: Yes.

11 MR. KLEIN: No.

12 THE COURT: Okay.

13 So, first of all, I think the defense is correct in
14 the following respects:

15 Number one, that I don't know, and they don't know,
16 the full extent of statements that are being offered, nor they
17 say are they in a position to have a view on authenticity. And
18 I'll add on to that, that with regard to 403 considerations, I
19 don't fully know whether or not something may have -- the
20 probative value may be outweighed by, for example, danger of
21 unfair prejudice or jury confusion in all instances. I can't
22 possibly know that.

23 But there is a fundamental point to start with, and
24 that is with regard to the indictment in this case, and there
25 is an argument that Griffith's initial attempts to develop what

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1 the government calls cryptocurrency infrastructure in the DPRK
2 is excludable. And reading the flavor of the briefs that have
3 been submitted in this case, it is as if Mr. Griffith was
4 charged with conspiracy to attend a conference in the DPRK.
5 That's the crime he's charged with committing.

6 That's not what the grand jury indicted him for.

7 So let's begin with the first principles. The grand
8 jury indicted him for participation in a conspiracy, from at
9 least in or about August 2018 up to and including in or about
10 November 2019, to conspire to violate licenses, orders,
11 regulations, and prohibitions in the IEEPA, and that's the
12 charge, and there are two objects. One is that it was part of
13 the conspiracy that Griffith and others would and did provide
14 and cause others to provide services to the DPRK. That's one
15 of the two objects. The second object is that Griffith and
16 others conspired to evade and avoid and attempt to evade and
17 avoid the requirements of U.S. law with respect to providing
18 services to the DPRK.

19 So those are the two objects of the conspiracy that
20 runs from August 2018 up to 2019.

21 Now, the government says it is seeking to offer
22 statements in the period of February 2018 through June of 2018,
23 and they are not during or in furtherance of the conspiracy.
24 They don't come in as proof, direct proof, of conduct during
25 the conspiracy. They are, however, it seems to me, the ones

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1 that have been tendered, background to the conspiracy, and,
2 further, they are not hearsay because, under 801(d)(2), they're
3 offered against the opposing party and they're party
4 statements.

5 So, for example, the government wants to offer the
6 February 17th, 2018 message to CC3, and he asks CC3 whether he
7 knew anyone in North Korea, we'd love to make an Ethereum trip
8 to DPRK to set up an Ethereum node, and he adds that it will
9 help them circumvent the current sanctions on them.

10 Well, the message has nothing whatsoever to do with
11 the fact that the Singaporean later on, the government
12 contends, became a member of the conspiracy. That's not why
13 this comes in; it comes in as a party statement and as
14 background to the conspiracy.

15 Similarly, with regard to the April 2018 emails,
16 Virgil is the guy who would like to get the node started, and
17 Griffith then wrote to CC4 that he was willing to spend \$8,000
18 on ItNix, explain the steps "buying the mining rig, ship it to
19 them, pay someone or some entity to continue maintaining it."

20 The statements of others cannot be admitted for the
21 truth of their content. And it seems to me that Griffith's
22 statement comes in; the other statements only comes in in the
23 context of shedding light on what it is that Griffith is
24 saying, and they're not for their truth. So that's where I
25 come out. There's a continued exchange on or about that date

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1 with other statements, but the gist of it is that party
2 statements by Griffith are not hearsay and they're relevant as
3 background to the conspiracy.

4 The same, June 30, 2018, Griffith emails CC5, tells
5 CC5 he's seeking for and introducing potential business
6 partners or personnel to the company, and he says that it's an
7 exchange about the South Korean government being open to
8 supporting The Ethereum Foundation. Now, here, on this email,
9 I'm not sure if it's probative of anything relative to the
10 background to the conspiracy, and so I have to reserve on
11 something like that. I don't know whether it's relevant or
12 not; it may not be.

13 Now, with regard to the August 7th exchange, this
14 is -- of course, the grand jury says that the conspiracy
15 started in or about August 2018 and the August 7th exchange is
16 with CC4, but I cannot determine that CC4 was then a member of
17 the conspiracy. I don't have any basis to conclude that. But
18 Griffith's statements would come in as party statements,
19 background, and CC4's and CC5's would be necessary in order to
20 understand what Griffith is saying, not for the truth of their
21 content.

22 August 24, 2018, Griffith writes a long paragraph to
23 CC5 asking if South Korea wanted to curry our favor by setting
24 up the DPRK node because we would do it myself, ourselves, but
25 we're scared of the sanctions. It seems to me that South Korea

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1 is allowed to violate those sanctions. I've been asked to step
2 away from the project, but if you ever see a lead to do this,
3 we'd love you for it. That comes in as a party statement.

4 CC5's response, it's quite sensitive, so I have to be
5 careful, too - I don't think that comes in because, first of
6 all, it's not a coconspirator statement at this point. CC5
7 hasn't been shown to have joined the conspiracy. And it's not,
8 as far as I can tell, necessary to the understanding of
9 Griffith's statements on August 24, 2018.

10 On September 23, 2018, Griffith emails an individual
11 asking if he would be interested in setting up the DPRK node
12 and forwarding some of the CC4 communications. That comes in,
13 again, as a party statement, at least on background; it's not
14 conspiratorial conduct, but it certainly comes in as a party
15 statement. Whether there is any other evidentiary basis for
16 it, I can't say at this stage.

17 And, certainly, messages by Griffith to a DPRK email
18 account asking, can Americans attend the conference, yes, no
19 problem - this is a statement during, and in furtherance of,
20 the conspiracy.

21 Now, with all statements made during and in
22 furtherance of the conspiracy, they're subject to connection.
23 They are subject to the strictures of the *Bourjaily* case and
24 the case law under *Bourjaily*, so they're all subject to being
25 stricken if, at the end of the government's case, I cannot find

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1 by a preponderance of the evidence that the declarant was a
2 member of the conspiracy when the statement was made and that
3 the statement was during and in furtherance of the conspiracy.

4 But preliminarily, and subject to that statement, the
5 August 27, 2019 communication from CC2 to Griffith would seem
6 to come in.

7 The August 31, 2019 statement is not by a member or a
8 purported member of the conspiracy; it's just an individual who
9 asks why is Griffith willing to risk his safety to go to the
10 DPRK, and he responds: DPRK wouldn't want to scare away
11 blockchain talent. That'll let them get around sanctions.

12 So individual 3's statement is not for the truth of
13 its content, but Griffith's statement is a party statement.

14 Then we have the DPRK invitation that's proof of the
15 conspiracy listing CC1 and CC2 as organizer and technical
16 advisor. Certainly the December 19, 2019 initial payment comes
17 in.

18 The January 24th, 25th, and 27th exchanges are, at
19 minimum, party statements bearing on Griffith's intent, even to
20 the extent that they're with Individual 4, who was not a member
21 of the conspiracy they still are party statements.

22 The February 14 communication with CC1 is, it appears,
23 likely a statement by a coconspirator during and in furtherance
24 of the conspiracy, as is Griffith's communications on
25 February 18th, February 28th, and March 7th of 2019.

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1 There were statements made by Griffith and others
2 during the conference, and they are direct proof of the
3 conspiracy. To the extent they are statements by persons who
4 were not coconspirators, they come in for the fact that they
5 were said, because it's part of the back-and-forth and the
6 interchange, and if they're coconspirators, then they're
7 potentially in furtherance of the conspiracy.

8 Likewise, the communications on April 20, 26th, 27th,
9 and May 14th look like they're likely statements during and in
10 furtherance of the conspiracy, except for the April 26th to
11 Griffith's parents, which is nothing more than a party
12 statement, not a coconspirator statement.

13 And, similarly, the statements made by Griffith to law
14 enforcement on May 22nd, 2019, November 6th and November 12th,
15 2019, they're party statements.

16 Now, with regard to the May 23rd, 2019 exchange, this
17 is about you should get your taxes in order, that ordinarily, I
18 would say, would not come in if that's all it was about, it
19 would not even come in for the truth of its content, but it's
20 Griffith's response that makes this relevant in terms of
21 consciousness of guilt. The email could be reasonably read to
22 indicate he's not at all concerned about taxes, but his
23 engaging in other conduct could result in his imprisonment.

24 The statements, again, from August 4th, 2019,
25 August 5th, August 7th, August 9th, October 2, October 28, and

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1 November 2018 -- well, let me leave November 2018 out -- the
2 ones I just mentioned, they're either coming in as statements
3 and the rest of the conversation with the other party to the
4 conversation is coming in, either to make the statement, party
5 statement, understandable, or some of them, for example, with
6 CC2, may come in, and CC1, for the truth of their content.

7 With regard to the November 18 communication, I
8 discovered I didn't file a tax return for 2015-2018, but,
9 weirdly, the IRS hasn't contacted me, that's out. I don't see
10 where -- the probative value to that is outweighed by the
11 danger of unfair prejudice, so I'm excluding that.

12 November 17 comes in as a party statement.

13 So that's where I am on the statements, and I have
14 some sympathy for what the defense says, that they don't know
15 the full context, they don't know the foundation, et cetera.
16 Some of that may be developed at trial, and there may be
17 instances where you'll able to persuade me that something that
18 didn't strike me as having a 403 dimension does in fact.

19 Now, is there something the defense wanted to say on
20 the DPRK's cryptocurrency capabilities?

21 MR. KLEIN: Yes, your Honor.

22 THE COURT: Okay. Go ahead.

23 MR. KLEIN: So, your Honor, the government moves,
24 going back where I started, to preclude what they consider
25 extraneous evidence.

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1 THE COURT: Right.

2 MR. KLEIN: And their response or the reasons they
3 outline why were because when we engaged in pretrial motion to
4 compel litigation, there was a stipulation they agreed to enter
5 into, and I think your Honor is well aware of that stipulation.
6 Again, that was over a discovery dispute. This trial is about
7 cryptocurrency, a blockchain, in North Korea. So any evidence
8 that the defense would want to offer about that would seem
9 highly relevant, particularly because it's focused around the
10 proper time frame, which it is.

11 THE COURT: Relevant to what issue?

12 MR. KLEIN: Relevant to the issue of services,
13 relevant to the issue of --

14 THE COURT: How is it relevant to the issue of
15 services?

16 MR. KLEIN: Sure, your Honor.

17 So, again, it goes to the stipulation where the
18 government said they won't present evidence or argument that
19 the information my client allegedly provided in the
20 cryptocurrency conference was not -- I'm just reading from it,
21 your Honor, sorry -- was beyond the then existing capabilities
22 and knowledge of the government of North Korea. And so one
23 thing we want to show, your Honor, is that North Korea
24 possessed tremendous cryptocurrency and blockchain capabilities
25 prior to Mr. Griffith's visit.

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1 THE COURT: Why is that relevant?

2 MR. KLEIN: Because then it would not -- he's not
3 providing the service, your Honor.

4 THE COURT: Okay. Thank you. That's what I was
5 asking.

6 MR. KLEIN: Sorry.

7 THE COURT: Well, because it's not obvious, but I
8 wanted to find out what your reason was because I didn't want
9 to misinterpret.

10 Okay. Go ahead.

11 MR. KLEIN: And even with this stipulation, your
12 Honor, the government can clearly leave the impression – and
13 they want to – they do plan to present evidence that certain
14 individuals at the conference gained information new to them.
15 That's included in our stipulation. So they do plan to present
16 evidence like that, and they're also going to call an expert to
17 talk about North Korea. Presumably, some of these issues will
18 be ripe for discussion with their expert, if you permit their
19 expert to testify.

20 THE COURT: All right.

21 Just bear with me. Are you finished?

22 MR. KLEIN: I think so, your Honor.

23 THE COURT: Okay. Just bear with me a moment.

24 (Pause)

25 THE COURT: All right. Much of this case is about the

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1 fact that the defendant's position is that what he provided was
2 information, not services, correct? That's what the defendant
3 has argued already to me in this case. Correct?

4 MR. KLEIN: Yeah, we've described it as services and
5 information, your Honor, but --

6 THE COURT: All right. Well, services that amount to
7 only information, right?

8 MR. KLEIN: Yes.

9 THE COURT: Because if it's services that are more
10 than information, then it's services, you're not in the
11 protected zone, right?

12 And the government argues that you're outside that
13 protected zone.

14 Now, I want to give you a hypothetical, and
15 hypotheticals always have problems associated with them, and I
16 realize that. But the point is, it illustrates, to me at least
17 in thinking about it, to what extent is it relevant, from the
18 government's standpoint or your standpoint, what technical
19 capabilities the North Koreans had in cryptocurrency.

20 So here's the hypothetical:

21 So Country A is a country that is subject to similar
22 types of or the same type of sanctions that we're dealing with
23 here, and a technician in Country A downloads a manual on how
24 to repair a Dell laptop computer, downloads it from the
25 internet, distributes it to fellow technicians, and over time

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1 and with practice, 20 technicians in Country A develop the
2 ability to repair Dell laptop computers.

3 Now, thereafter, a lone U.S. citizen travels to
4 Country A to repair a Dell computer, and attempts to do so.
5 That conduct is services even though there are 20 technicians
6 in Country A who are capable, equally capable, of doing the
7 same thing. That's hypo one.

8 Hypo two: A lone U.S. citizen travels to Country A
9 and delivers a manual and then leaves, delivers the Dell repair
10 manual, and leaves. That appears to me to be information, not
11 services, and that doesn't turn on whether 20 people have the
12 manual or no one in Country A has the manual. In both of those
13 instances, it's services by means of information which is not
14 criminal conduct, arguably.

15 So that's my hypothetical, and it leads me to the
16 conclusion that it does not matter whether or not the DPRK had
17 capabilities in cryptocurrency. As in the first hypothetical,
18 there are 20 people in Country A who can repair Dell laptop
19 computers, but a U.S. person travels there with the purpose and
20 intent of repairing a Dell computer, it's not a defense that 20
21 people in that country could have done so. By the same token,
22 if it's delivering the manual, and it's only information, it
23 doesn't become a crime because no one in that country had the
24 manual; if the manual was available, and it's nothing other
25 than preexisting information that is being delivered, the same

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1 way a copy of the U.S. Constitution, a copy of the Bible,
2 whatever it may be.

3 So I won't ask the pointed question. I'll ask you to
4 react, and then I'll give the government an opportunity to
5 react.

6 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, can I have a moment to talk
7 with my colleagues?

8 THE COURT: Sure.

9 (Pause)

10 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, thank you for that moment to
11 confer with my colleagues.

12 So I do appreciate these hypotheticals, and I
13 understand that this case poses a lot of interesting, novel,
14 and somewhat complex issues.

15 I think, in addressing the first hypothetical, that's
16 not the case here, as we know. My client isn't accused of
17 doing some sort of physical labor in a country, fixing like a
18 plane or a car or anything like that.

19 When I get to number two, your Honor -- when we get to
20 number two, and we think about what you're asking, which I
21 think is a good question, I think what we're getting to is that
22 the government's theory is that the information they allege my
23 client, our client, is providing at this conference is new
24 information, and that's what's different between, and in one
25 and two, the information in the manual because the manual comes

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1 after, right? It's not new information.

2 THE COURT: Yes, well, I gave it actually both ways.
3 He comes with the manual, and if 20 people already have the
4 manual or no one has the manual, it's still information. So,
5 in a way, I'm agreeing with your point, I think. I'm probably
6 disagreeing more with the government on this.

7 MR. KLEIN: Yes, your Honor, and we always appreciate
8 that, when that happens.

9 THE COURT: Of course.

10 MR. KLEIN: But I would also say, and, again, what's
11 also different, and I would point this out, and I think your
12 Honor understands this, the information allegedly provided was
13 readily and publicly available. So this Dell manual in your
14 hypothetical may not have been readily and publicly available,
15 but – and, again, it goes to our expert – the information
16 provided in this case, if the government can prove it was
17 provided, was something that is the first click on Google, was
18 well-known and publicly available information.

19 THE COURT: All right.

20 Let me say, Mr. Klein, that that's an issue I haven't
21 gotten to, and I'm suspecting -- I don't know whether it will
22 be a jury question on the difference between, in my
23 hypothetical, he physically has the manual in hand. You're
24 raising a worthy point that I'm not deciding right this second,
25 about what does it mean to access something on Google versus to

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1 have already accessed it. I'm not going there.

2 But from your side of the table, let's start with the
3 more optimistic one, which is if they had 20 copies of the
4 manual, or they had no copies of the manual, they never heard
5 of the manual, and someone puts it on the table and delivers it
6 to them, they never heard of it, this manual has much greater
7 value to them, but it's information in either of those
8 instances. Whether they had the capability or they didn't have
9 the capability, it's information, and, therefore, if it's
10 solely information, there is not a crime. That's what I'm
11 agreeing with. I think you're urging that, unless I'm missing
12 something here.

13 MR. KLEIN: We are urging, your Honor, that this was
14 not a crime, yes.

15 THE COURT: Well, I know that, but for that reason.
16 That's more important to me. I understand you hear sweet words
17 like "not a crime," but it's the logic that I'm asking whether
18 you agree with.

19 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, we do agree -- and, again, I
20 know this is parsing it because it is somewhat complex, but we
21 do agree that there was not a crime committed here because the
22 information Mr. Griffith allegedly provided was not a service,
23 and as I explained earlier, it was not new information, it was
24 well-known publicly available information.

25 THE COURT: All right. Thank you.

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1 Let me hear from the government. I've heard the
2 defendant's viewpoint. I don't mind spending a little bit of
3 time on this because this is the heart of the case, I think.

4 So what's the government's position?

5 MR. WIRSHBA: Your Honor, the government's position is
6 that the Court has set out in its hypotheticals what the
7 government understands to be an accurate description of the law
8 and that those hypotheticals would directly speak to the issue
9 that we're talking about here, which is whether or not there's
10 relevance to the cryptocurrency capabilities of the DPRK as a
11 whole.

12 Of course, the government disagrees about what it was
13 that was actually done within North Korea, for example, and
14 whether or not that would fall within the information or
15 informational materials exception, of course, but with respect
16 to the Court's hypotheticals, the government believes that the
17 Court is spot on, and that what those hypotheticals show is
18 that there is no relevance to the cryptocurrency capabilities
19 of the DPRK as a whole or individuals with whom -- within the
20 DPRK, but with whom Mr. Griffith never came in contact.

21 THE COURT: You want to respond, Mr. Klein?

22 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor – I apologize, I was just being
23 handed a noted by my cocounsel – I think that he's summing up
24 our view again, and I think this is right, which is, their case
25 is premised on the idea that our client provided info to the

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1 DPRK to do things and that information was a service, right?

2 And that's where we land.

3 THE COURT: When you threw in the "right," please
4 don't do that to me because it poses a burden on me - if I'm
5 silent, then you must have agreed with me or something.

6 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, I'm not --

7 THE COURT: I know, I know, it's a habit some people
8 have.

9 Thank you, Mr. Klein.

10 So where I come out is -- and the door is going to
11 swing both ways on a lot of this, but, no, the defense cannot
12 offer evidence as to DPRK capabilities, and neither may the
13 government. That's my ruling.

14 Now, it also comes up -- and I will jump ahead, but
15 it's a logical jump ahead, and I apologize for jumping ahead,
16 but the government wants to offer an expert, if I understand
17 it, or you want to preclude them from offering an expert on
18 such things as Korean nuclear capabilities or the like or why
19 or how North Korea got on a prohibited list. That strikes me
20 as being no more relevant in this case than a prosecutor in a
21 fentanyl case wanting to explain why there are laws against
22 controlled substances and why and how fentanyl got on the list
23 or heroin got on the list. That doesn't come into evidence.
24 The Court instructs on the law, and it's not probative evidence
25 of anything. It seems to me the government is allowed to offer

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1 evidence that they have to prove as part of their case that
2 there is a restriction and the restriction is proven by
3 whatever listing North Korea is on. So it can briefly do that,
4 but not why it's on a listing or on an embargo; that's not what
5 we're going to do here.

6 To the extent it has any probative value, it's
7 outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice.

8 And, similarly, I come out the same way as to the
9 Berman Amendments. The Berman Amendment are relevant in this
10 case. They're relevant as a legal doctrine in this case.
11 That's for the Court to instruct. It's not why we have Berman
12 Amendments, it's not why we have an embargo on North Korea;
13 it's North Korea is a prohibited country and information is
14 protected. And my job, as the judge, is to communicate these
15 concepts to the jury clearly, maybe even repetitively, I don't
16 know, but that's where I come out on that for both an expert on
17 generally an explanation of why there is an IEEPA and why
18 North Korea is on it.

19 Does the government want to comment on any of that?
20 Do you accept my ruling, or do you want to tussle?

21 MS. RAVENER: Your Honor, we accept the Court's ruling
22 with respect to those parties.

23 I think there are two points that I'd seek to clarify,
24 and if I'm getting ahead of the Court, please --

25 THE COURT: No, go ahead.

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1 MS. RAVENER: One is that with respect to the
2 government's proffer of an expert witness, we did propose some
3 other areas for Dr. Arrington's testimony that relate, for
4 example, to --

5 THE COURT: Juche.

6 MS. RAVENER: -- Juche.

7 THE COURT: No, I read the Second Circuit's case law.
8 I think the latest one was Judge Hall's decision in United
9 States against Mejia. I don't know if that's the last one or
10 the last big word in that area, and certainly experts can
11 explain the meaning of terminology. That is not controversial.

12 MS. RAVENER: Understood, your Honor. That's very
13 helpful to us and --

14 THE COURT: I probably said the word wrong. It's not
15 Juche, but whatever it is.

16 MS. RAVENER: I can confess that the entire government
17 team has been practicing to get that right, and I can't say
18 that we have it right either, but Juche, I believe.

19 THE COURT: Okay. Whatever it is.

20 MS. RAVENER: So, Judge, thank you for that, and we'll
21 adhere to those parameters. Of course, if the Court has more
22 specifics...

23 With respect to the defense experts, I would just seek
24 some further clarification as well. We concur that testimony
25 regarding the scope, for example, of the Berman Amendment is

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1 not appropriate from a witness, that that's left to the Court's
2 instructions.

3 There are other areas along what we believe to be
4 precisely the same lines with its expert for precisely the same
5 reasons that the defense has proposed with respect to their
6 OFAC expert, a former OFAC official. We did move to preclude
7 that testimony --

8 THE COURT: Well, I understand. This is the
9 under-enforcement expert?

10 MS. RAVENER: Correct.

11 THE COURT: Which the defendant argues is relevant to
12 lack of intent. And I know that there was a decision, I
13 believe, by Judge Nathan and one by Judge Keenan, which I've
14 looked at, and I don't think either one of them answers -- no
15 disrespect to my colleagues, they didn't need to answer the
16 question that I'm faced with. But it does strike me -- again,
17 I apologize for how my brain works, all right? Everybody's
18 brain works differently. So when I try to think about that, I
19 do think of analogies. And the analogy that comes to mind is
20 an illegal reentry by a person previously convicted of a
21 serious offense, and that's a crime.

22 It would strike me that it is no defense to that crime
23 that a defendant said, oh, I committed that -- I did that under
24 the presidential administration of President A, not the
25 presidential administration of President B, and I knew

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1 President A was not big on enforcing the laws, so I didn't
2 commit the crime. That strikes me as not relevant evidence and
3 not admissible.

4 Now, what else they want to say in response -- I mean,
5 the nice thing here is the defendant's case comes after the
6 government's case. Who knows what doors the government may
7 open. I don't know, and I'm not going to get too deeply into
8 confining you until I know what doors have been opened, but my
9 take is that under-enforcement evidence is not relevant
10 evidence in this case.

11 So let me talk about the personal wealth and
12 cryptocurrency holdings of Mr. Griffith. And the government
13 does not intend to offer such evidence. They have some
14 discrete items of evidence about possible funding of a mining
15 node for 8 or 10 thousand dollars and funding travel to the
16 DPRK. That seems to be of a different category, and that would
17 come in. But the government is not allowed, and will not be
18 permitted, to offer evidence that Mr. Griffith did or did not
19 get rich on cryptocurrency or otherwise. It's just not
20 relevant in this case.

21 The crack statement, in jest, "I'll try to be wealthy
22 enough to pay my bail" is relevant even as a jest, not to show
23 he is wealthy or he's planning to become wealthy; it's a
24 statement of, yeah, I know I'm at risk of getting arrested.
25 That's why it's relevant. It goes to consciousness and intent.

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1 So that's why I'm not going to exclude that.

2 And, again, the defense moves to exclude evidence
3 regarding involvement with Tor and the dark web. Well, the
4 government is not going to be permitted to wander into this
5 area and describe the defendant as a man who frequents the dark
6 web, ladies and gentlemen, and you can only wonder what that
7 might mean. That's not going to happen in this trial. There
8 are specific items, for example, on the defendant's CV that may
9 be relevant, but the defendant has to -- rather, the government
10 has to show me why they are relevant. I don't know why they
11 are relevant.

12 I mean, there is an email that Griffith sent to an
13 individual who worked for a dark web entity where he says: I
14 once mentioned to you the idea of doing a node in the DPRK. I
15 was going to put an Ethereum node there, but I eventually
16 decided it was too edgy and decided against it. However, Tor
17 doesn't mind being edgy in these ways. If Torservers.net or
18 others would like to crowdfund putting a Tor node in the DPRK,
19 I'd bet they'd do it under the same conditions described below,
20 et cetera.

21 That evidence comes in, and in that sense, I guess the
22 reference to Tor on his resume makes sense. Why and where does
23 the term dark web come in and why should it be mentioned in
24 this trial at all?

25 MS. RAVENER: Your Honor, I'm not sure that the

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1 government does intend to elicit it. I'll just reserve that.
2 To the extent the defense does present evidence from a
3 purported cryptocurrency expert that touches on areas that
4 could open that door, we would reserve our right in our
5 rebuttal case.

6 THE COURT: Right.

7 MS. RAVENER: But with respect to our case in chief,
8 I'm not sure that we intend to offer much, if anything, on this
9 subject --

10 THE COURT: Well, you'll let me know before you offer
11 anything or the words come out of your mouth or are shown to
12 the jury. You'll flag it for me ahead of time.

13 MS. RAVENER: We can do that, your Honor. And you've
14 identified the one email and the CV, which are the documents
15 that we currently have in mind.

16 THE COURT: All right. Okay.

17 So I've already discussed DPRK's nuclear program,
18 et cetera.

19 Where it comes in, to a limited extent – and it's not
20 really the government introducing it – it's in emails by
21 Griffith, and Individual 3 says to him: What if they're
22 funding their drug trade and nuclear program with crypto? And
23 Griffith responds: Unlikely, but they'd probably like to start
24 doing such, and he wrote an Ethereum colleague that he would
25 not be pursuing the DPRK node because the U.S. president,

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1 quote, "would receive a memo that says Ethereum is funding DPRK
2 nukes."

3 Now, I have to ask the government, why would the fact
4 that he's not pursuing a DPRK node be relevant to your case?
5 Maybe the defendants want to offer it, but how is that relevant
6 to your case?

7 MS. RAVENER: Your Honor, it's relevant because that
8 statement by the defendant wasn't true. It was weeks later
9 that the defendant contacted the other individual affiliated
10 with Tor proposing to crowdfund putting a node in DPRK despite
11 his claimed walking away from the subject.

12 THE COURT: All right. So you're saying this exchange
13 with the Ethereum Foundation and the exchange with Individual 3
14 came after the email that I quoted that starts, I once
15 mentioned to you the idea of doing a node in the DPRK; is that
16 what you're saying?

17 MS. RAVENER: Your Honor, I just want to check that
18 date. I don't want to be mistaken.

19 THE COURT: Sure.

20 Well, let me say if it's not before, then I'm inclined
21 to exclude them. If they're after the prior communication,
22 then I would be inclined to allow it.

23 MS. RAVENER: Understood, your Honor, and, regardless,
24 we just want to get it right for you.

25 THE COURT: Right.

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1 (Pause)

2 MS. RAVENER: Okay. Yes, your Honor. I'm looking at
3 the dates now. So the first statement, your Honor, is from
4 August 24th, 2018, and the second statement where Griffith
5 actually pursues following up with trying to get someone else
6 to follow through on the node plan is September 23rd --

7 THE COURT: That's the GoFundMe one?

8 MS. RAVENER: Correct.

9 Basically, offering to crowdfund the effort.

10 THE COURT: All right. That's presumptively
11 admissible subject to the defense telling me that the
12 chronology is in error or the like.

13 I'm going to exclude, it seems to me, CC3 sending an
14 article from a newspaper stating that Singapore was warning to
15 avoid nonessential travel to the DPRK because of the six
16 nuclear tests, that if that has any probative value, it's
17 substantially outweighed by the danger of unfair prejudice. So
18 that does not come in.

19 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor --

20 THE COURT: Yes.

21 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, with regard to the emails or
22 messages we're talking about, we feel very strongly that you
23 can redact the word "nuclear," and you can redact the word
24 "drug trade," and the government would still able to get what
25 it wants, but I think using the word "nuclear" in this

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1 courtroom — and it's a bad pun — it would be like dropping a
2 nuclear bomb in this courtroom, in this case. And I think
3 there's a way -- again, we made our position clear, it
4 shouldn't come in at all, but we think those terms could be
5 redacted, and you get rid of what we view as an incredible
6 classic 403 problem there.

7 THE COURT: Well, I'll think about it. I want to hear
8 from the government on that — I'll give them an opportunity to
9 get me a letter on that — but I do realize that even in the 403
10 analysis, it is significant that this is coming out of the
11 defendant's mouth. That doesn't mean that anything that comes
12 out of the defendant's mouth is excluded from 403; that's
13 certainly not the case, and I think I've already excluded
14 something under 403 that came out of the defendant's mouth.

15 It may be that in the two emails, one where it says
16 drug trade and nuclear program, that could be redacted to read,
17 their illicit programs and president would receive a memo that
18 says Ethereum is funding illicit programs. But I'll give the
19 government until Friday to get me a letter on that.

20 MS. RAVENER: Thank you, your Honor. We would like an
21 opportunity to address that.

22 THE COURT: Okay.

23 There is the motion with regard to access to
24 information after September 10th, 2020, that were the fruits of
25 the search warrant. So, as I understand the facts, during some

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1 period of time ending September 10, case agents reviewed the
2 fruits of the search warrant, which was, I gather,
3 undifferentiated contents of certain electronic storage
4 material and segregated that which they believed was relevant,
5 and that that material was accessed, the segregated impertinent
6 material was accessed, after September 10, 2020, but not by
7 anyone on the prosecution team.

8 The defense says, be that as it may, this is, number
9 one, either systematic and pervasive conduct, or, number two,
10 outrageous conduct that warrants dismissal of the indictment
11 without a showing of prejudice.

12 Now, the Second Circuit has said in, I believe it was,
13 *United States v. Walters*, a case with which I have some
14 familiarity, that the statement in a Supreme Court decision – I
15 don't remember the name, something like Port Huron or Port
16 something or other – was, it appeared to the circuit, to be
17 dicta and that no case had ever been dismissed on the
18 systematic evasive basis, but there is such an exception
19 recognized by the Supreme Court for outrageous misconduct.

20 I am going to, number one, make sure that the
21 representation that was made with regard to members of the
22 prosecution team accessing material is correct. I'm getting
23 more than a mere summary statement in the August 24 letter that
24 no one did. I want declarations from all members of the
25 prosecution team because it appears to me that if those

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1 representations are correct, the issue still exists and the
2 defendant is still able to show that it is outrageous
3 misconduct.

4 However, there is not, in my view, since this is not a
5 case that's talking about prejudice to the defendant, this is
6 an issue that can be addressed after the trial. Today, to
7 state the obvious, is September 14th. A jury will be selected
8 on September 27th, and, as I noted at the outset, I'm presently
9 on trial. The issue does not disappear necessarily if
10 Mr. Griffith is acquitted; it doesn't disappear if Mr. Griffith
11 is convicted. If he is convicted, it may provide the basis to
12 vacate the conviction. If he's acquitted, it may provide the
13 basis for other remedial relief that the Court can impose, but
14 so long as I am satisfied that the prosecution team did not
15 access the material, I plan to go forward on September 27th. I
16 wanted to put that on the record so that everybody knows where
17 I am on it.

18 Now, are there other issues that the government wants
19 to raise that I should address today?

20 MS. RAVENER: Your Honor, we do want to just note for
21 the Court that last night, the defendant filed, for the first
22 time, a Rule 15 motion with respect to a witness located --

23 THE COURT: Yes, this is the second, yes, deposition.
24 Your time to respond hasn't even -- I don't know anything about
25 it, to tell the truth, other than that a motion was filed.

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1 MS. RAVENER: Thank you, your Honor.

2 And I just want to alert the Court that we do intend
3 to oppose that motion.

4 THE COURT: And you're going to get that in on the
5 17th, right?

6 MS. RAVENER: We can --

7 THE COURT: Friday?

8 MS. RAVENER: We can do that, your Honor, with one
9 request for the Court to consider: It is Yom Kippur this week,
10 which has truncated our time.

11 THE COURT: Right.

12 MS. RAVENER: If it would be possible for the Court to
13 accept our opposition on the following Monday?

14 THE COURT: Done. That's fine. Thank you.

15 MS. RAVENER: Thank you.

16 THE COURT: Anything else?

17 I'm going to get to you, Mr. Klein.

18 MR. KLEIN: You were just looking at me so straight,
19 your Honor.

20 THE COURT: Okay. That's all right.

21 (Pause)

22 MS. RAVENER: Pardon me, your Honor?

23 THE COURT: One second, please.

24 MS. RAVENER: Yes.

25 THE COURT: Yes.

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1 MS. RAVENER: Pardon me, your Honor, if you could
2 indulge us one more moment?

3 THE COURT: Yes.

4 MS. RAVENER: We do appreciate the Court is very busy
5 on other matters.

6 THE COURT: That's all right.

7 MS. RAVENER: We also want to note, we did file a more
8 extensive response with respect to our proposed North Korea
9 expert, Dr. Arrington --

10 THE COURT: I know.

11 MS. RAVENER: I know it's just filed late last night.

12 -- as well as to preclude certain testimony --

13 THE COURT: What time was it last night? I know the
14 defendants filed one at 11:46 p.m. on Friday night. When did
15 you file yours?

16 MS. RAVENER: Your Honor, we were in a similar time
17 range.

18 THE COURT: I thought that.

19 MS. RAVENER: So we certainly don't expect to take
20 those issues up today, but we do want to just make sure that
21 the Court is aware we would appreciate any guidance we could
22 receive on those issues in advance of trial and --

23 THE COURT: Well, wait a minute.

24 MS. RAVENER: -- our response to the Court.

25 THE COURT: Listen, your expert -- are you talking

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1 about Arrington?

2 MS. RAVENER: Yes, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: What guidance didn't I give you today that
4 you need?

5 MS. RAVENER: Your Honor, that, I think, we do
6 understand. It's the second portion of the government's motion
7 with respect to certain testimony that the defense seeks to
8 offer.

9 THE COURT: OFAC testimony?

10 MS. RAVENER: No, your Honor. The defense has served
11 subpoenas on multiple members of the FBI as well as two
12 Department of Justice National Security Division attorneys.

13 THE COURT: Is this the under-enforcement issue?

14 MS. RAVENER: Your Honor, it appears to relate to a
15 host of issues that we believe to be globally impermissible,
16 inadmissible testimony. Again, the briefing is available for
17 the Court when your Honor is ready to --

18 THE COURT: But, listen, I have to read it, but --

19 MS. RAVENER: Of course.

20 THE COURT: -- you're giving me a preview. You're
21 saying when you read it, you will not know what these witnesses
22 are for. Isn't that what you're telling me?

23 MS. RAVENER: No, your Honor. And let me do a better
24 job, if I can try.

25 THE COURT: Okay, sure.

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1 MS. RAVENER: I'm going to turn this over, actually,
2 to my colleague.

3 THE COURT: Good.

4 MS. RAVENER: Thank you.

5 MR. WIRSHBA: Your Honor, so the government filed a
6 brief last night, and it was very late, that attached a letter
7 from the defense seeking to admit testimony from certain FBI
8 agents and certain attorneys within the National Security
9 Division related to a host of different topics. The government
10 attached that letter and made arguments about why those topics
11 should be inadmissible at trial.

12 If it's helpful, your Honor, it's Exhibit D to the
13 motion filed last night.

14 THE COURT: One second, please.

15 (Pause)

16 THE COURT: So this is Exhibit A?

17 MR. WIRSHBA: No, your Honor. The letter from the
18 defense is Exhibit D.

19 THE COURT: Hang on a second now.

20 MR. WIRSHBA: And the government's brief on this topic
21 begins at page 22.

22 THE COURT: Well, the first topic sounds to me like
23 the under-enforcement issue, the FBI's assessment and
24 enforcement of the North Korea sanctions regulations. Maybe
25 it's not precisely under-enforcement, it's enforcement

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1 philosophy. That's that.

2 The second topic is FBI's coordination and
3 communications with representatives of the Department of State
4 regarding Griffith's alleged activities purportedly related to
5 North Korea prior to, during, and following the cryptocurrency
6 conference.

7 Why is that relevant?

8 MR. BUCKLEY: Your Honor, if I may, just to set the
9 table here or set the stage for us a little bit. This letter
10 is not a letter seeking to admit various topics of testimony.
11 This is a letter required by the *Touhy* regulations, where we
12 are required to provide notice to the government of the various
13 topics that we may seek to offer testimony for. We haven't had
14 an opportunity, obviously, to respond to the government's
15 submission.

16 I will note that the government indicated in its
17 submission that we had met and conferred regarding these
18 topics. That's not accurate. We had a preliminary
19 conversation to front the issue. We had agreed to have further
20 discussions about it. And I think, in view of the Court's
21 rulings here today --

22 THE COURT: There will be further discussions?

23 MR. BUCKLEY: Yes, your Honor.

24 And the other point I wanted to raise with the Court,
25 though, is the point that the Court made earlier, which is, the

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1 defense goes second, right -- withdraw the right, your Honor --
2 the defense goes second. We have to provide this notice at
3 this stage of the proceedings. We don't know what doors
4 they're going to open.

5 THE COURT: I understand, I understand, and that's
6 true.

7 But what I am going to direct you to do is confer.

8 MR. BUCKLEY: Understood, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: Both sides have a bit more than what they
10 knew before, as a result of today's conference.

11 Now, does that complete the government's list of
12 things they wanted me to address?

13 MR. WIRSHBA: Your Honor, there is one additional
14 thing. If your Honor is planning to take up the search warrant
15 issue after trial, with the assistance of the declarations that
16 you've ordered for Friday, the government would ask to be able
17 to put over its briefing until after trial as well and supply
18 the declarations that your Honor has requested.

19 THE COURT: No, no, no, no. You're going to supply
20 the declarations -- if you're telling me you need till Monday
21 on the declarations, that's a different story, but the
22 declarations come before the trial.

23 MR. WIRSHBA: Absolutely, your Honor. We're supplying
24 the declarations on Friday, as ordered.

25 The government also suggested that it might file a

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1 brief on Friday. With the Court's permission, if the Court is
2 putting off that issue until after trial, the government would
3 request to adjourn that deadline until after trial, but, of
4 course, we will be putting in the declarations as ordered.

5 THE COURT: Well, the thing I want you to respond to
6 is, if you look at what I said in my order, as opposed to what
7 the defendant is, I didn't ask you to respond to the motion to
8 dismiss by Friday. That's not in my order.

9 MR. WIRSHBA: Understood, your Honor.

10 THE COURT: But what I did ask you to do was to
11 respond to the defense's request for certain information.
12 That's in my order.

13 MR. WIRSHBA: We will do that, your Honor.

14 THE COURT: Okay.

15 Now, with regard to the response to the motion to
16 dismiss, I will hold that in abeyance. If I find, based on
17 what I get on Friday, that there's a need to, I will let you
18 know; if not, then I would put it off until after the trial.

19 MR. WIRSHBA: Understood, your Honor.

20 THE COURT: All right.

21 Mr. Klein?

22 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, two points on that:

23 One was, our motion is also a motion to suppress in
24 the alternative --

25 THE COURT: Yes.

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1 MR. KLEIN: -- all the evidence that was hosted on
2 Palantir, and that would need to be decided before trial, your
3 Honor.

4 THE COURT: Yes. Well, I can tell you right now, if
5 the government does what I've asked them to do, then implicit
6 in my ruling that the trial goes forward, subject to your
7 motion, if you persuade me that it's outrageous misconduct,
8 it's a multistep process. I suppose I could just jump to
9 dismissing the indictment or I could suppress the evidence, in
10 which event, there may be insufficient evidence to support the
11 indictment, but it would get you to the same place if I
12 concluded there was outrageous misconduct.

13 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, the suppression isn't premised
14 on outrageous conduct. I think if you read our brief, your
15 Honor, that's not the standard we need to meet.

16 THE COURT: Well, I have read your brief. I didn't
17 read the brief the government filed last night. I read your
18 brief.

19 MR. KLEIN: So, then, the Fourth Amendment suppression
20 is not premised on outrageous conduct. That's not the standard
21 that would need to be applied here for the Court to suppress
22 the evidence we're seeking to suppress.

23 THE COURT: So tell me the standard. Don't hold me in
24 suspense.

25 MR. KLEIN: So, your Honor, on page 9 and 10 here --

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1 THE COURT: Right.

2 MR. KLEIN: If you turn to page 8, 9, and 10 --

3 THE COURT: Go ahead.

4 MR. KLEIN: I'm grabbing it, your Honor.

5 THE COURT: I'm not surprised you're reading it.

6 You're trying to figure out what it is. I got it.

7 MR. KLEIN: I didn't intend to argue this motion
8 today, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: No, I got it, I got it, there's a lot on
10 your plate.

11 MR. KLEIN: So, your Honor, on page 9 --

12 THE COURT: Yeah, you say: Flagrant disregard of the
13 warrant's terms, the drastic remedy of suppression of all
14 evidence seized may be justified. All right.

15 And what I'm saying is, because -- listen, you found
16 out about this on August 24th, time is short, trial was a
17 little bit over a month away, and you didn't know everything
18 that you knew last Friday night at 11:46, but you filed your
19 motion Friday night at 11:46. Friday night was September 10th,
20 today is September 14th, and we're going to trial on
21 September 27th.

22 The ground that you assert is an assessment of whether
23 it's outrageous misconduct, whether it's flagrant disregard.
24 It's not a different standard. It's not as if there is a
25 doctrine which said that is independent of the doctrines

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1 intertwined with your motion to dismiss the indictment. And
2 I'm going to take that up after the trial, and that will be
3 true with the suppression issue.

4 If the government is able to make clean
5 representations along the lines I indicated, then I am not
6 suppressing the evidence prior to trial, I'm not dismissing the
7 indictment, but the issue is reserved until after trial.

8 MR. KLEIN: Yes, your Honor.

9 THE COURT: That's my ruling.

10 MR. KLEIN: And, your Honor, one point on that point
11 moving on.

12 THE COURT: Right, sure.

13 MR. KLEIN: In terms of members of the prosecution
14 team who are submitting declarations on Friday, the defense
15 would understand that would include individuals at OFAC who
16 were involved in this case because the government -- the Court
17 had previously found that OFAC was part of the prosecution
18 team.

19 THE COURT: When did I find that?

20 MR. KLEIN: When we moved to compel evidence, your
21 Honor related to OFAC, and your Honor found -- and, again, it's
22 not precisely in those words, but your Honor ordered the
23 government to produce evidence related to OFAC because OFAC got
24 entangled with the FBI in terms of the investigation of this
25 case.

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1 THE COURT: I'll hear from the government on that one.

2 MR. WIRSHBA: Your Honor, that's not the government's
3 understanding of your Honor's order when you made it with
4 respect to OFAC. Your Honor ordered the government to conduct
5 a review for certain materials at OFAC, but it is not the case
6 that there are individuals at OFAC who are on the prosecution
7 team. No one at OFAC has participated in a witness interview,
8 reviewed any of the evidence in any of the search warrants, or
9 any other of the indicia of being on the prosecution team.

10 THE COURT: Well, see, here's the issue I have: If
11 there is a clean representation from the case agents, the
12 prosecutors, those working with them in putting together this
13 case, that clean representation, by my recollection of my own
14 order, says, and that they're not aware of anyone else having
15 access to the information.

16 So that would mean that if someone at OFAC did
17 something -- and maybe it's outrageous mis -- I'm not going to
18 rule on that now, but if OFAC did something, the government, as
19 they sit here today, the prosecution, doesn't even know what
20 that information was. I'm not going to require them to learn
21 the prohibited information at this juncture. So that's why, as
22 a practical matter, I'm going to stick to where I am.

23 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, moving on, we had filed a
24 motion, a letter motion, regarding Coinbase.

25 THE COURT: Yes. Let me -- not to cut you off, but

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1 let me say this about it: This is accessing something at
2 Coinbase. You're a good lawyer, you've got a good team
3 together, and I'm going to assume that this really wasn't
4 thought through, but there is no set of facts under which the
5 Court could have signed the order you proposed – none
6 whatsoever. They, in effect, adjudicate Mr. Griffith's
7 ownership of this account. They adjudicate whether there are
8 any claims or liens of third persons, and this is all done
9 without notice or an opportunity to be heard by Coinbase.

10 Mr. Klein, have you read the order recently? Maybe a
11 member of your team has the order. Take a look at it.

12 MS. AXEL: I have it, your Honor.

13 THE COURT: Yes. Basically, I order nonparty Coinbase
14 to release funds in this account to Mr. Griffith. Maybe you
15 might have wanted to say, Judge, can you enter an order that
16 says there is nothing in United States against Virgil Griffith,
17 20 CR 15, that restricts Coinbase's ability to release bonds –
18 that might be something we could have a discussion on – but the
19 form of the order does not work.

20 MS. AXEL: Okay, your Honor, yes, we have been in
21 communications with Coinbase, and I think the fear is exactly
22 that they just don't want to step on any toes, particularly in
23 light of the prior briefings that we've had in this case.

24 My understanding is they have no objection to handing
25 this money over to somebody and liquidating the account and, in

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1 fact, have expressed a preference toward liquidating the
2 account. The form of how to do that exactly, you know, I'm
3 happy to go back to them and make sure that this form is
4 acceptable to them and resubmit to the Court.

5 THE COURT: Right. But I want to hear what the
6 government's position is on an order which says, in essence,
7 there is nothing in United States against Virgil Griffith which
8 precludes Mr. Griffith seeking property owned by him from a
9 third party such as Coinbase.

10 MS. RAVENER: Your Honor, that does strike the
11 government as infinitely more appropriate than the order sought
12 by the defense, both for the procedural issues and other
13 reasons outlined by the Court.

14 We will just put on the record that those funds remain
15 subject to ongoing investigation, from the government's
16 perspective. We have concerns about those funds. We obviously
17 have no order restraining them — that is true, we aren't
18 seeking one now, your Honor — but when the defense sought our
19 consent initially, we advised them that we could not provide
20 such consent and, in part, asked them to identify to us what
21 was the provenance of those funds. They represented to us that
22 those funds, they believed, to be the product of Mr. Griffith's
23 salary at Ethereum. Based on the facts available to the
24 government, that does not comport with what we know, and, as a
25 result, we could not provide our consent with respect to that

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1 particular account. All of that is just to highlight for the
2 Court – in addition, by the way, to the lack of clarity, given
3 Mr. Griffith's own statements, as to whether these funds could
4 be subject to an IRS lien or have been properly accounted for
5 here – that there could be other issues beyond any of our
6 knowledge and that we don't believe it's appropriate to enter
7 anything more than to say that the funds are not restricted
8 pursuant to this criminal case, as the Court has said.

9 THE COURT: Okay.

10 So you'll get me a revised order on notice to the
11 government, and I would ask the government to respond within
12 two business days of receiving the proposed order.

13 Then, if there's no objection, and it's in a properly
14 formed order, I'll enter it. All right?

15 And no harsh criticism intended by the form of the
16 order, but I couldn't do that --

17 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, we will revise it and submit
18 it to you. Thank you for -- there's a few very minor
19 logistical, but quick things.

20 THE COURT: Sure. Go ahead.

21 MR. KLEIN: One, we would like your Honor to permit
22 Ms. Axel and I and anybody to bring phones and laptops into the
23 court.

24 THE COURT: Well, certainly laptops, what you should
25 do is contact my deputy during business hours, and she may be

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1 able to assist you, but there is a form of an order that you
2 would have to submit, and the cell phone restriction has been
3 lifted during the pandemic for trial participants.

4 MR. KLEIN: Ah, okay.

5 THE COURT: So if you're a trial participant, it's
6 lifted, and there's a good reason for that – because we're in a
7 different period. I've lived through the most strictly
8 enforced period of this pandemic, and we still have strict
9 enforcement, but you really could not take off a facemask to
10 communicate with a member of your staff, and you're limited,
11 you will be limited in the number of people who will be at
12 counsel table. So it's important that you be able to text
13 someone to say, bring in the next witness or I need this
14 document or the like. So that's going to be permissible.
15 You'll be fine there.

16 MR. KLEIN: Yes, your Honor, we appreciate that.

17 Do we need to bring a copy of the docket, or we should
18 talk to your deputy about how we --

19 THE COURT: No, no. I don't know how the CSOs go
20 about it, but as Mr. Buckley could suggest, although he always
21 waved his way in, so maybe he doesn't know anything about this,
22 is a possibility, but usually what happened is the CSOs would
23 call up chambers and say, there's some guy by the name of Klein
24 who thinks he has a case before the judge, is he for real,
25 should we let him bring his phone and --

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1 MR. KLEIN: You can send me home some days, if you
2 want, your Honor.

3 THE COURT: -- we'll take care of that, but I don't
4 think there's any order there. If you need an order or you get
5 hassled, then we'll give you an order, but most lawyers don't
6 seem to have a problem with what I just described.

7 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, clothes for Mr. Griffith
8 during trial?

9 THE COURT: You need to get me an order.

10 MR. KLEIN: Yes.

11 THE COURT: It's an order to the marshals, and you
12 have to supply the clothes to the marshals. Your job is to
13 talk to the marshals and find out what they need, but one of
14 the things they do need is an order from me. You'll get that
15 to me, and I'll sign it.

16 MR. KLEIN: Yes, your Honor.

17 Mr. Griffith's family has inquired about, and I know
18 you mentioned the restrictions about attendance, but obviously
19 his parents are very interested in attending his trial and
20 maybe some friends and family.

21 THE COURT: Here is the story: It's probably worth
22 your while to go into one of the courtrooms where one of these
23 trials are taking place. I'm, these days, up in 23B. I have
24 no idea where this trial will take place, but there are seating
25 restrictions, as there are today, on where you can sit and

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1 social distancing.

2 So, subject to those restrictions, the family is
3 welcome to be in the courtroom. I think what I will do for
4 this case is provisionally set up an overflow arrangement, and
5 the overflow room will probably be right here. So we will do
6 that, and I think usually the CSOs are pretty good if you say
7 it's family, if they're mother and father, not if 45 people say
8 we're family, that might not go so well.

9 MR. KLEIN: Yes.

10 THE COURT: But if there's a mother and father, I
11 fully expect the CSOs will accommodate in the actual courtroom
12 rather than the overflow, but I can't guarantee that.

13 MR. KLEIN: Yes, one of our questions was on that.

14 Are exhibits handled differently now?

15 THE COURT: Yes. All electronic. Unless it's
16 physical evidence, it's all electronic.

17 One of the things you need to do is, you need to
18 prepare a USB drive — and this is going to be the job of the
19 government — with all admitted exhibits and an index to the
20 admitted exhibits. So you'll get your admitted exhibits,
21 unless the government has already loaded them on there, and
22 that goes into the jury room during deliberations, and they
23 will have an electronic device -- it's not a laptop, they're
24 going to have a full-sized large monitor, several of them, but
25 they will be instructed on how to access the exhibits on the

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1 USB drive.

2 MR. KLEIN: During the course of the trial, everything
3 is going to be electronic, no paper exhibits?

4 THE COURT: No paper exhibits, yes.

5 MR. KLEIN: Okay.

6 THE COURT: And there are, I won't say, no possibility
7 of a sidebar, but no sidebar. I finished a trial over the
8 summer where, in two weeks, there were literally no sidebars.
9 The case I have on trial now is a criminal case; there have
10 been no sidebars. We take things up on breaks. I'm not saying
11 never, I'm not saying it couldn't happen, but it's got to be
12 something that really couldn't have been anticipated.

13 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, there's one other issue, and
14 this -- we know you don't run the MCC, but we have had real
15 difficulty getting access to our client, and there has been
16 some suggestion that he may be moved to the MDC and put in
17 quarantine for 14 days, which makes it so that he couldn't --
18 potentially, we're not sure exactly of all the rules because
19 they're constantly --

20 THE COURT: Well, that's going to be -- the government
21 can't go to trial if there isn't a defendant. I really frown
22 on absentee trials. So if the government wants to go to trial
23 on September 27th, they're going to need to be able to have a
24 defendant who can be here and can be returned to the place of
25 incarceration, or you don't get a trial or Mr. Griffith gets

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1 released. Those are about the only options.

2 I have not – and I think I would – get the warning
3 that the MCC is going to be closed down, everybody's going to
4 the MDC, but I think if I was down to the 72-hour mark or the
5 five-day mark, I probably would know, and I haven't heard that
6 yet, but it's on the government's shoulders to make sure that I
7 have a defendant on September 27th and all succeeding days.

8 MR. KLEIN: Yes.

9 MS. RAVENER: Your Honor, that's the first we've heard
10 of any concern of that nature, and we will look into it.

11 THE COURT: Okay.

12 MR. KLEIN: And just to be clear, we would request
13 that he stay at the MCC through trial, assuming it's open and
14 they don't shut the whole facility down.

15 THE COURT: Sure, sure. Well, yes, me, too. I'm with
16 you on that. Great idea. I can't get it through my head what
17 it would be like if defendants have to be produced from the MDC
18 every day for trial. Things are -- I guess I'm requesting to
19 be learning about that because when they lock the door on the
20 MCC, I guess that's what will happen.

21 MR. KLEIN: Yes, your Honor. Thank you for -- let me
22 just check and make sure there's nothing else, but I think that
23 is it, your Honor.

24 THE COURT: Hang on now.

25 (Pause)

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1 THE COURT: Well, listen, my first thanks go to my
2 wonderful court reporter who has stayed with us tonight – thank
3 you, Andrew – and thank you for the very fine briefing on
4 everything. It was a pleasure to read good briefing.

5 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, three seconds?

6 THE COURT: Yes.

7 MR. KLEIN: Just we're not sure how long the
8 government's case is going to be in chief right now, so we'd
9 ask that we get some information on that. We'd also ask for --
10 if your Honor has anticipation for opening statements, how long
11 you anticipate, we'll work that out when we arrive for the
12 trial.

13 THE COURT: No, no, we're not going to work it out
14 when we arrive. This is always a painful part of the process,
15 but I'll ask: How long does the government think it wants for
16 its opening statement?

17 MS. RAVENER: Your Honor, approximately 20 minutes.

18 THE COURT: Okay.

19 And yours will be that or less, I assume, yes?

20 MR. KLEIN: We were hoping for half an hour, your
21 Honor.

22 THE COURT: I think it's fair, then I'm going to
23 expand the government's.

24 MR. KLEIN: Fine.

25 THE COURT: But, no, I could do that, I think I'm

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1 going to limit both sides to 20 minutes. That should be
2 adequate for the case. So let's limit it to 20 minutes.

3 Jury selection, you may or may not know -- well, what
4 happens on the morning of trial: You're going to go to the
5 courtroom, we're going to tell you what courtroom to go to.
6 There will be no jurors there. But that's where we'll
7 assemble. Then we're going to head down to the jury assembly
8 room, and the jury selection process will take place in there.
9 And there will be room at counsel table, generally speaking,
10 for two prosecutors and two defense counsel and the defendant.
11 Sometimes, in a one-defendant case, we can do better than that;
12 I can't promise that in the jury assembly room. And then when
13 there's a sidebar, usually, it will be one attorney from each
14 side at the sidebar with the jurors. There's a little bit more
15 flexibility on the final strikes. I realize that that's a
16 little bit logistically difficult, and we can accommodate more.

17 What else?

18 MS. AXEL: Can I ask a question about that, your
19 Honor?

20 THE COURT: Sure.

21 MS. AXEL: The COVID list that applies when we have to
22 come into the courtroom, that basically you report if you have
23 really any symptoms of the common cold. Is that the same list
24 for jurors, and does that give them an opportunity to
25 essentially avoid service or decide whether they want to

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1 participate?

2 THE COURT: Well, I don't know, what did you do when
3 you came in today? Because the questions have been changed. I
4 personally - me, as a judge of this court - have to do this
5 every day I am in the courthouse. There's the QR code, you
6 scan it, you're asked the question are you fully vaccinated,
7 and so on and so forth. If not, then you -- if you have COVID
8 symptoms or you have been to a quarantine location or in
9 contact with a person who has COVID, you're not immediately
10 allowed in. What happens is, there is a COVID response team
11 available in this court by phone that makes a determination of
12 whether or not it is safe for that person to come into the
13 courthouse, period. But it's not the CSOs' job to enforce that
14 as such. If someone cannot come in under the restrictions,
15 they should so indicate, and then we'll get an indication from
16 the team.

17 But, most emphatically, we are not collecting data on
18 whether jurors have or have not been vaccinated. An
19 unvaccinated juror is welcome to serve. We don't say, are you
20 vaccinated or not vaccinated? It's not part of the voir dire
21 process. There is, obviously, the need to know -- maybe the
22 person tested positive for COVID, we would need to know that in
23 order to be able to restrict that person from infecting other
24 people in the building, but that is isolated from the jury
25 selection process.

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1 MR. KLEIN: Your Honor, the government's estimate for
2 the length of trial, it would also be helpful to us, your
3 Honor, in our planning.

4 THE COURT: What do you think you need for the length
5 of this trial, as I have now -- I've made it a more efficient
6 trial for you, for one thing, right?

7 MS. RAVENER: Your Honor, our estimates are the same
8 as they've always been. We anticipate that the government's
9 case could be completed in approximately a week and may go into
10 two, and we hope, though we don't know at all what the
11 defense's case may be, but it may be completed in two weeks.

12 We'd also just note that we've already produced
13 approximately 180 exhibits to the defense as well as 3500
14 material for many witnesses.

15 THE COURT: Okay.

16 So everything you've said is consistent with what I've
17 heard and known all along, so...

18 MR. KLEIN: And, your Honor, hopefully, we will pick a
19 jury and get to opening statements right away. Could we ask
20 for the government's, at least, first day witness list a few
21 days in advance?

22 THE COURT: You guys are going to talk to each other.

23 MR. KLEIN: Okay.

24 THE COURT: I'm not refereeing this. I don't want to
25 hear about battles back and forth. Talk to each other. And

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1 this is a case where it's likely that there will be a defense
2 case, and sauce for the goose is sauce for the gander, and the
3 one thing I won't tolerate, because I've actually had lawyers
4 who have tried this, is, oh, well, you're going to give me 24,
5 48 hours on the government's case and your witnesses, and, of
6 course, I'll do the same, and then it gets to the defense case,
7 and they go ha-ha-ha, I'm not going to do that. And that would
8 not go well. Of course, they don't say with a ha-ha-ha, they
9 just say, oh, your Honor, this is all unexpected and I didn't
10 know.

11 But talk to the government, work it out. You have
12 things to talk about, including your subpoenas. You need to
13 talk.

14 MR. KLEIN: We will do so. We have been talking, your
15 Honor. We talked before we came in here.

16 THE COURT: Okay. Good. What else?

17 MS. RAVENER: Nothing further from the government,
18 your Honor.

19 MR. KLEIN: Nothing further from the defense, your
20 Honor.

21 THE COURT: Okay, that's good. So I will see you on
22 September 27th, 9:30 a.m., in the courtroom that we're assigned
23 to. Stay well until then. Be well.

24 MR. KLEIN: Thank you, your Honor.

25 MS. RAVENER: Thank you, your Honor. * * *

Exhibit B



Extraction Report

Apple iPhone Logical

Participants



[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net
Virgil Griffith (owner)

Conversation - Instant Messages (12)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net [REDACTED]

What's the conference like? And I guess the travel ban is being lifted?

Status: Read

Platform: Mobile

8/31/2018 9:59:32 PM(UTC+8)

Source Info:
thicc/Applications/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/ChatStorage.sqlite : 0x63364BB (Table: ZWAMESSAGE,
ZWAGROUPMEMBER, ZWCHATSESSION, Size: 205750272 bytes)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Virgil Griffith

One can request an exemption to the ban

Status: Sent

Platform: Mobile

8/31/2018 9:59:46 PM(UTC+8)

Source Info:
thicc/Applications/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/ChatStorage.sqlite : 0x6336422
(Table: ZWAMESSAGE, Size: 205750272 bytes)
thicc/Applications/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/Library/Preferences/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared.plist : 0x73A (Size: 9664 bytes)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Virgil Griffith

Or one can just ignore it

Status: Sent

Platform: Mobile

8/31/2018 10:00:01 PM(UTC+8)

Source Info:
thicc/Applications/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/ChatStorage.sqlite : 0x6336393
(Table: ZWAMESSAGE, Size: 205750272 bytes)
thicc/Applications/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/Library/Preferences/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared.plist : 0x73A (Size: 9664 bytes)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Virgil Griffith

That's what most people do

Status: Sent

Platform: Mobile

8/31/2018 10:00:04 PM(UTC+8)

Source Info:
thicc/Applications/group net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/ChatStorage.sqlite : 0x6336305
(Table: ZWAMESSAGE, Size: 205750272 bytes)
thicc/Applications/group net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/Library/Preferences/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp shared plist : 0x73A (Size: 9664 bytes)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Virgil Griffith

No idea what con will be like

Status: Sent

Platform: Mobile

8/31/2018 10:00:14 PM(UTC+8)

Source Info:
thicc/Applications/group net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/ChatStorage.sqlite : 0x6336274
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thicc/Applications/group net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/Library/Preferences/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp shared plist : 0x73A (Size: 9664 bytes)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Virgil Griffith

I presume it'll be fancy

Status: Sent

Platform: Mobile

8/31/2018 10:01:34 PM(UTC+8)

Source Info:
thicc/Applications/group net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/ChatStorage.sqlite : 0x63361E6
(Table: ZWAMESSAGE, Size: 205750272 bytes)
thicc/Applications/group net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/Library/Preferences/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp shared plist : 0x73A (Size: 9664 bytes)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net [REDACTED]

Haha so you are willing to risk your safety for a conference you don't know will be worthwhile? I've always wanted to go but also recognize the current political climate and my nationality

Status: Read

Platform: Mobile

8/31/2018 10:01:38 PM(UTC+8)

Source Info:
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[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net [REDACTED]

It seems fascinating

Status: Read

Platform: Mobile

8/31/2018 10:01:59 PM(UTC+8)

Source Info:
thicc/Applications/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/ChatStorage.sqlite : 0x6337FB2
(Table: ZWAMESSAGE, ZWAGROUPMEMBER, ZWACHATSESSION, Size: 205750272 bytes)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Virgil Griffith

I think this con is about as safe as a trip to dprk is going to get for the next 4-5 years.

Status: Sent

Platform: Mobile

8/31/2018 10:02:21 PM(UTC+8)

Source Info:
thicc/Applications/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp shared/ChatStorage.sqlite : 0x6337EE7 (Table: ZWAMESSAGE, Size: 205750272 bytes)
thicc/Applications/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp shared/Library/Preferences/group net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared.plist : 0x73A (Size: 9664 bytes)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Virgil Griffith

It's a business event, it's just after the summit, and it's a fancy con. And DPRK wouldn't want to scare away Blockchain talent that'll let them get around sanctions

Status: Sent

Platform: Mobile

8/31/2018 10:03:03 PM(UTC+8)

Source Info:
thicc/Applications/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp shared/ChatStorage.sqlite : 0x6337DCA (Table: ZWAMESSAGE, Size: 205750272 bytes)
thicc/Applications/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp shared/Library/Preferences/group net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared.plist : 0x73A (Size: 9664 bytes)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net [REDACTED]

What if they're funding their drug trade and nuclear program with crypto?

Status: Read

Platform: Mobile

8/31/2018 10:07:18 PM(UTC+8)

Source Info:
thicc/Applications/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/ChatStorage.sqlite : 0x6337BCD (Table: ZWAMESSAGE,
ZWAGROUPMEMBER, ZWACHATSESSION, Size: 205750272 bytes)

[REDACTED]@s.whatsapp.net Virgil Griffith

Unlikely. But they'd probably like to start doing such

Status: Sent

Platform: Mobile

8/31/2018 10:07:37 PM(UTC+8)

Source Info:
thicc/Applications/group.net.whatsapp.WhatsApp.shared/ChatStorage.sqlite : 0x6337B24 (Table: ZWAMESSAGE, Size: 205750272 bytes)
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Exhibit C

23 Translator:

(Korean)

13:35

25 Defendant: So frankly this is new. Before you couldn't hold a country accountable like this behaves.
26 Like if it's a big country. Like there's nothing you could do. Now there is. So just an idea,
27 so hypothetically you could have something where you could have a module on a
28 missile, and the module could say something like you know if all the news reports say
29 that sanctions on North Korea have been lifted, the missile will deactivate. But only
30 then. And so this will give the US I guess confidence that Korea really will follow through
31 to say that no no if you get rid of the sanction, the missile really are gone, like really.
32 And so this is fundamentally a new way where they are automatic agreements you can't
33 take back.

34 Translator:

(Korean)

15:51

36 Defendant: So this doesn't work for all contracts. So, for example I could have a contract that says I
37 promise a million dollars that I will shave my cat. If I don't shave my cat, there's no real
38 way to know that. So it doesn't work for everything. But it works for a lot of things. And
39 the things it works for and doesn't work for, it gets complicated, and it gets more into

1 details. But in short this is a brand new tool in international negotiations that we
2 should've had before.

3 Translator: (*Korean*)

4 Defendant: That's actually kind of it. That's most of it. We can go into more detail, but this is
5 fundamentally the idea. So smart contracts allow you to have agreements where they
6 are not enforced by a court, they're enforced by these sort of triggerable conditions,
7 and the idea would be that if some case happens, it would become very expensive. So
8 for example you could have an agreement where if the US backs out, it could be very
9 expensive for the US to do that. It could cost them billions of dollars, so you could say
10 well if the US backs out, at least we know that it would cost them a bunch of money.
11 And so they probably won't do it.

12 Translator: (*Korean*)

13 18:48

14 Defendant: So... that would suggest that if the DPRK wanted to explore this, would be to set up a
15 small research group to study what kinds of contracts they would like to have all over
16 the world that could be enforced on Blockchain, because I know not all of them can. But
17 this is an active research area in science, actually no one really knows how to do this
18 well yet, but y'all could be the first.

19 Translator: (*Korean*)

20 20:06

21 CE: That's the end of all of our content for today, thank you very much for paying attention
22 even after lunch, everyone feels a little sleepy including me. And now for the rest of the
23 time if you have any questions about what Dr. Virgil just said or anything in general from
24 the whole day, feel free to ask, and we can spend the rest of the time answering
25 questions that maybe came to you later after you thought about.

26 Translator: (*Korean*)

27 Defendant: Tell them that I am here tomorrow of course...

28 Translator: (*Korean*)

29 Audience: (*Korean*)

30 Translator: So it was mentioned that smart contract...an open one...normally in contract if there is a
31 dispute between the parties to the contract it's really subject by some mediation
32 means, and so I want to know if there is a dispute relating to smart contract, my
33 question is is there a legal guarantee or legal insurance that enforces the smart
34 contract? If not, how would a possible dispute that happened between the parties be....
35 resolved?

36 22:18

1 Defendant: Sure. So basically you and your, so I guess instead of there being two lawyers for each
2 side there's two programmers, and the two programmers are writing the same piece of
3 code together. And they're writing like a flow chart, you say if this happens, then you
4 get the money, if this other thing happens, then I get the money, if this other thing
5 happens then the money gets destroyed. And you both like decide... and eventually
6 both programmers go ok and then you upload it. Once you upload it, you can't change
7 it. So make sure you get it right. And that's fundamentally the idea, it's like a mechanical
8 judge.

9 Translator: (Korean)

10 Defendant: So you want the contracts to be as simple as possible. Because just the same way you
11 have a good lawyer, they can trick you, if they have a really good programmer, they can
12 trick your programmer, so you want to make it a very, very simple contract, it would
13 probably be simple conditions, but with very large amounts of money.

14 Translator: (Korean)

15 Audience: (Korean)

16 Translator: So I think in order for a smart contract to be enforced certain conditions must be
17 satisfied and I think the, so it means that there should be a way to decide whether a
18 condition has been satisfied or not. And I think in order to judge whether the condition
19 is satisfied or not, it can be necessary to get some information or data from outside
20 Blockchain. My question is when, in relation to the receiving data from outside
21 Blockchain, can they make sure that it happens without any disagreement between the
22 parties, in a way that does not involve anybody in this agreement between the parties in
23 a reliable and safe manner. In other words, if sometimes it could be possible, sometimes
24 it's not possible, then a problem will happen.

26:43

26 Defendant: Yeah that's exactly the problem. That's the hardest part.

27 Translator: (Korean)

38 Translator: (Korean)

29:02

2 Defendant: So.. that is the hardest part, and now it's....the smaller things first, like things like say
3 things like you know, we want there to be less artillery in the DMZ, and say you know if
4 there is less artillery then that we agree to I don't know, say one of the missiles, exactly
5 one being deactivated, or something like that and this is the way to start small, as we
6 get comfortable with technology.

7 Translator: (Korean)

30:15

9 Defendant: I suppose finally, I hear your concern that this may not be perfect or exactly what you
10 want but it is a brand new tool and there is going to be uses for it and this seems a good
11 place to try it.

12 Translator: (Korean)

Exhibit D

Blockchain and Peace

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#####

Key features

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* Blockchains are open---DPRK can't be kept out.

* Requires Internet.

* Self-reliance. Banking and contracts without an authority---in accord with Juche idea.

#####

Generic uses for DPRK

#####

* The USA won't be able to stop payments.

* The UN won't be able to stop or cancel agreements.

* Using Burns to solve peace in the middle east---to hold countries accountable.

* Using smart-property to disable nukes based upon fulfilled conditions.

* Cooperation in blockchain space between countries (block n by country A, block n+1 by country B), where A and B are opponents.

